



# *Seaplane Pilots Association Australia*

## **CODE OF OPERATION**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

***Members of the Seaplane Pilot's Association of Australia have, in the interests of promoting safety and the respectful use of Australian airspace and waterways, proudly adopted and agree to promote the following Code of Operation as a guideline and general policy for the operation of Seaplanes in Australia.***

#### **TRAINING**

In accordance with CASA the Australian Federal Aviation Laws, all Seaplane Pilots are required to undertake additional and specialized flying training in order to safely carry out water operations in a Seaplane.

#### **LICENCING**

All Seaplane Pilots are specifically licensed to operate a Seaplane in accordance with the Australian Federal Aviation Laws and additionally are required to hold a Maritime License to navigate a vessel in excess of 10 knots.

#### **APPROVAL TO OPERATE**

Seaplanes are generally approved to operate from Australian waterways and in so doing are required to observe all the CASA operational regulations relating to the safe operation of aircraft. Seaplane pilots are also required to observe all the Maritime regulations relating to the safe operation of a vessel on a waterway, "distance off", speed limits and giving way to other boating traffic.

Seaplane pilots embrace and promote additional training and awareness of the respectful observance of the Maritime environment in which they operate.

### **GENERAL OPERATIONS**

#### **SEAPLANE PILOTS SHALL:**

- Belong to and be current members of the Seaplane Pilots Association of Australia.
- Observe the state, federal and international laws relating to the safe operation of marine craft.
- Carry their License to navigate when operating the aircraft on water.
- Be vigilant of and consider as an operational practice, to maintain as a minimum the safe "Distance Off" (30 Mtrs) relating to other water vessels, swimmers, Safe Speeds & Speed Limits.
- Give way to all other vessels even if the seaplane has Right of Way.
- Provide assistance to other persons or vessels in distress.

#### **IN THE AIR**

- Abide by all CASA Rules
- Maintain a continuous radio watch and make all necessary calls.
- See & Be SEEN

#### **WHEN TAKING OFF & ALIGHTING**

- Maintain and avoid wherever possible reasonable clearances from residential areas.
- Brief Passengers fully on emergency procedures.
- Consider possible wind sheer, downdrafts and hazardous conditions in the lee of terrain.
- Be aware of and anticipate the movements of other boating traffic and conduct maneuvers and an operational procedure that maximizes safety and separation from other water traffic

## **ON THE GROUND/BEACH**

- Be aware of public safety and the safe movement of persons near and around a seaplane.
- Wherever appropriate request the assistance of a responsible individual to observe safety and security relating to the movement of a seaplane when it is approaching or leaving a beach, jetty or mooring.
- Maintain vigilance for animals whenever operating a seaplane on or near beaches and other public areas.
- Appoint a beach marshal wherever appropriate and necessary to ensure the safe movement of a seaplane.

## **AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE**

- Strive always to maintain their seaplanes in good and safe condition to the highest possible standard.

## **SAFETY EQUIPMENT**

- Always provide for and brief passengers on the use of Personal Floatation Device PFD or Safety Vests.
- Carry all other mandatory and appropriate safety equipment required for safe Seaplane Operations.
- Seaplane Pilots will wherever possible carry VHF Marine Radio.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL**

- Ensure that all re-fuelling and maintenance does not present a risk of pollution to a waterway.
- Seaplane Pilots shall observe awareness of environmental *NOISE* relating to the operation of Seaplanes and have undertaken training in and practice *NOISE ABATEMENT* procedures.
- During all water operations Seaplane pilots shall be particularly vigilant and aware of the specific environmental impact an operating seaplane presents to any type of land, wildlife, waterway or community.
- Pilots all times to “fly neighborly”. Concentrated operations in one area/waterway to be avoided, mix it up, spread the operation around and minimize the “nuisance factor”.

## **COMMUNITY**

- Seaplane Pilots shall whenever called upon, lend assistance to Water Police, State Emergency Services, and Voluntary Rescue Organizations and provide such assistance wherever possible and safe to do so.
- Assist and participate in the promotion of safety and awareness of Seaplane operations by involvement in advisory and appropriate voluntary groups, agencies and associations.
- Join and/or be involved in appropriate local water user clubs and associations to promote the safety and benefit of seaplanes to the community - eg. Sailing, fishing, rowing, water skiing.
- Handle Complaints respectfully, courteously and with diplomacy, even when the complaint may be unreasonable.
- Wherever appropriate and whenever possible seaplane pilots should seek specific information & guidance from local community & relevant authorities when planning to operate into marine areas in which seaplane operations are uncommon.

## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS**

Depending on specific locations (special built up areas and control areas) there may be special operational requirements that apply to Seaplane operations, for example R405 A & B in Sydney Harbour.

In this regard Seaplane pilots wishing to operate in these highly sensitive and “built up” areas should ensure that they be fully aware of the special operational requirements that relate to these areas.

Additionally – the Seaplane Pilots Association has a network of State Co-ordinators. Seaplane Pilots wishing to operate in other states and outside of their usual area of operation, should contact the relevant State Co-ordinators or local operators to obtain appropriate briefings on any special requirements that may apply to those areas.

## **SAFETY POLICY**

### **POLICY RELATING TO THE USE OF PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICES – PFDs - SAFETY VESTS**

Seaplane Pilots and operators of Seaplanes shall as a general policy, wear PFDs during all water operations.